(c) Employment is the thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Plan emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors, and areas which have relatively high employment potential for enhancing the pace of employment generation. Geographically crop-wise diversified agricultural development, wasteland development and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and, expansion of housing, are the basic elements of the employment-oriented growth strategy envisaged in the plan. The additional employment opportunities likely to be generated are excected to benefit the educated as well.

Merging of ESI with provident fund scheme

4775. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that efforts have been made to abolish the so called 'Inspector Raj' to free the small industries sectors from the harassment and corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ESI scheme also is looked into since it is not serving the purpose for which it was meant; and

(d) whether Government would consider merging this scheme with that of Provident Fund?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The various labour laws provide for appointment of inspectors to ensure compliance by managements of the provisions of the respective laws. There is no proposal to do away with the inspectors.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The ESI Scheme provides for medical care in kind and payment of cash benefits in the contingencies of sickness, maternity, disablement and death due to employment injury. The working of the ESI Scheme is generally satisfactory. However sporadic complaints are recieved about inadequate/unsatisfactory medical care under the ESI Scheme.

The ESI scheme is being administered by the ESI Corporation which is a corporate body comprising representatives of meployers employees, Government and Parliament. The Corporation meets atleast twice in a year o ensure smooth functioning of the Scheme

The administration of medical care under ESI Scheme is the statutory responsibility of the concerned State Government/Union Territory administration. However, it is also reviewed by a General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Corporation and by the Regional Boards and Local Committees.

(d) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for merger of the ESI Scheme with the EPF Scheme.

New offices for Regional Provident Fund Commissioner

4776. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to open new offices of Regional Provident Fund Commissioner in Delhi;

(b) what are the areas selected to open these offices;

(c) what has been the criteria for selecting these offices;

(d) whether it is a fact that RPFC's Office has advertised for space for new offices;